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13 APRIL 1965

Talking Out of Turn

Senator Milton R. Young, North Dakota Republican, talked out of turn when he revealed in a report to his constituents that many of our most valuable Central Intelligence Agency operatives throughout the world are actually high ranking Communist Party officials.

"Some party members - not too sold on communism - for a price will work for us," Young wrote. They find little difficulty in adapting themselves to any kind of political environment.

Young is one of the half dozen men in the Senate in a position to know precisely how much money is spent by the CIA and for what purpose. These funds are hidden in other appropriations to mislead spies for security purposes.

Then what purpose does Young's revelation serve, other than to dissipate this security screen? We are not so much concerned with the possibility that heads may roll in communist parties around the world. We are very much concerned that operatives secured at great risks and cost may clam up for fear of exposure and will have to be replaced at greater risk and cost. With nearly 20 years in the Senate, Young is no neophyte and should know better.

Sanitized - Approved For Release: CIA-RDP75-00149R000800160034-3